MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC VIEWS *of the* COSMOS

THE BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES
http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/bookofcuriosities

USER GUIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION

This electronic publication allows you to view the folios of the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES and read an English translation (with or without annotations) or an Arabic transcription of its contents. It also allows you to search the contents of the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES in both English and in Arabic.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The 'Table of Contents' option (under 'BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES') displays the titles of the chapters and the maps and diagrams, in the order they appear in the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES. By selecting a title and clicking on the link, you view the first folio of the chapter or the selected map.

MANUSCRIPT

The 'Manuscript' option (under 'BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES') allows you to view the folios of the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES, one folio at a time (or in the case of some maps, one bifolio at a time). As an on–line publication, it also allows you to read an Arabic transcription and an English translation (with or without notes) of that particular folio.

At the top of the image you can see the title of the chapter to which this folio belongs. You may click on the title to read a summary of the chapter.

Below the image there is also a short description of the contents of the

individual folio, such as 'map of Sicily'. Under all the images of maps you will find an explanatory diagram, in the form of an attached PDF file. Click on the name of the PDF file to download a copy.

Types of View:

There are four types of view available: English, English with notes, Arabic transcription, and Image. To choose any of these views, select one of the tabs at the top of the Manuscript page.

To view a folio that contains a map, a diagram, or an illustration, you should use the 'Image' view (default option). Once in the 'Image' view, place your mouse over any label in the map or diagram. You will get a pop-up screen displaying an Arabic transcription, English transcription and translation, and additional explanations (indicated by italics). Click once and you will get a second pop-up screen displaying a magnified image of the particular label, an Arabic transcription, and English translation, and explanatory comment that often contains links to bibliographic references and definitions. If you click on any highlighted words, you will then open an additional window providing the full bibliographic reference or definition of a term.

When viewing a folio that contains text, you can choose any of the following four views:

1. 'Image' (default option) – allows mouse-over view of segments of text on the folio. Place your mouse over any unit of text in the image and **click once**. You will get a pop-up screen displaying an enlarged image of the selected unit of text, Arabic transcription and annotated English translation. You may click on any highlighted words for links to full bibliographic references and other definitions and identifications.

2. 'English' view is most useful for the general user, for it provides a straightforward English translation of the folio, without annotation.

3. 'English with notes' adds links to footnotes and an extensive glossary, both of which are accessible by clicking on highlighted words or footnote numbers. By clicking on the line numbers that

appear above any unit of text, you will get a pop-up screen including an enlarged image of the selected unit of text, Arabic transcription and annotated English translation.

4. 'Arabic transcription' view provides an edited transcription of the original Arabic, together with footnotes relating to the reading of the Arabic text (accessible by clicking on the highlighted footnote numbers). By clicking on the line numbers that appear above any unit of text, you will get a pop-up screen including an enlarged image of the selected unit of text, Arabic transcription and annotated English translation.

To view a folio that contains a map, a diagram, or an illustration, you should use the 'Image' view.

Enlarging and adjusting the image

You can view the selected folio in a small, medium, or large size. Choose one of the three icons at the left, on top of the image of the folio. Have patience, as the large-size image may take a while to download.

By using the spanner icon on the right-hand side, you can personalize the resolution of the 'small' and 'medium' images.

Selecting a folio or chapter

To view a particular folio, select it from the navigation bar at the top of the screen (the 'Go to:' Box).

You can also choose to view a particular chapter by selecting it from the navigation bar at the top of the screen (the 'Go to:' Box). Clicking on a number of a chapter (for example, 2.1 – The second part, chapter one) will bring you to the first folio of that chapter.

For navigating the manuscript, you may prefer to choose 'Table of Contents' or 'Thumbnails' from the main menu.

Explanatory Diagrams

Some folios will be accompanied by explanatory diagrams. When provided, the link to these diagrams can be found at the bottom of the screen.

THUMBNAILS

Click on this option to view 'thumbnails' of the images of the folios in the manuscript, together with a short description. You can scroll backwards and forwards in the list by clicking the arrow icons. By selecting (single click) a thumbnail image you get to a 'manuscript view' of the selected folio.

To view a thumbnail of map or a chapter on a particular topic, use the 'search thumbnail titles' box on the top right of the 'Thumbnails' page. The 'search thumbnail titles' searches for words in the description of the folio. For example, searching for 'Sicily' would bring a thumbnail view of the folios containing either textual chapters on Sicily or the map of Sicily.

General Viewing tips:

- To view a folio that contains a map, a diagram or an illustration, you should use the 'Image' view.

- By using the spanner icon on the right-hand side, you can adjust the resolution of the medium or small images.

- To find a particular map in the manuscript, use the 'search thumbnail titles' box on the top right of the 'Thumbnails' screen.

GLOSSARY

The 'Glossary' list displays place-names, personal names, and other terms that appear in the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES, together with clear

definitions and references. Each glossary entry is linked to the text segments in which it appears in the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES.

Clicking the 'magnifying glass' icon displays all the text segments in the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES in which the selected glossary term appears. This list then also links to the manuscript page itself through another 'magnifying glass' icon.

You can scroll forward and backward in the 'Glossary' list by clicking the 'arrow' icons, or use the A–Z ruler at the top of the screen.

Note that the alphabetical order of the glossary terms regards dotted letters (Ṣ, ṣ, ṭ, Ṭ, etc.) in transliterated terms as different characters. Dotted letters usually follow the undotted, standard Latin characters. For example, the terms that begin with 'Ṣ' will follow the terms that begin with 'S'.

Use the 'filter' box at the top of the screen to limit the glossary display to a specific type of entries, such as 'place-name'.

REFERENCES

The 'References' list displays the reference works (bibliography) used in the edition and translation of the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES, together with the shortened form in which they appear in the notes and the footnotes.

Note that the alphabetical order of the references regards dotted letters (Ṣ, ṣ, ṭ, Ṭ, etc.) in transliterated terms as different characters. Dotted letters usually follow the undotted, standard Latin characters. For example, the terms that begin with 'Ṣ' will follow the terms that begin with 'S'.

SEARCH

This screen allows you to search for an English or Arabic word or a term.

There are two types of Search available: 'Quick Search' and 'Search'. To choose either option, select the appropriate tab at the top of the page.

'Quick Search'

The 'Quick Search' allows you to search for a word or a term in one of the following databases:

> 'Arabic text or English translation'
> 'Glossary'
> 'References'
> 'Footnotes'

You can select the database by clicking on one of the radio buttons at the top of the screen under 'What would you like to search on?'. Any individual search can only apply to no more than one database.

You can type your requested term in English or in Arabic. If you are entering a term in Arabic script, you should tick the box labeled 'Tick if entering Arabic script'.

A Quick Search on 'Arabic text or English translation' will look for the specified term in the text of the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES (either English or Arabic). It also searches the notes that accompany map labels, but it does not search the footnotes.

When searching for place-names and personal names that contain transliteration using non-standard Latin characters (ṭ, ṣ, etc):

- If possible, type your search in Arabic script.
- Select 'Glossary' search, and then type the term in standard Latin characters (see below).

The result of the search on 'Arabic text or English translation' displays all the text segments in the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES in which the selected glossary term appears. This list also provides an indication of the location of the requested term in the manuscript as well as a link to the manuscript page through a 'magnifying glass' icon.

The 'folio number' box on the top left of the 'search result' page allows you to limit your search to one particular folio.

A Quick Search on 'Glossary' will look for the specified term in the entire glossary database, including the explanatory notes. Type in the term with standard characters, changing long vowels or non-Latin consonants into standard English characters. For example, if you are looking for 'Ṣīn' then type 'Sin'; if you are looking for 'Masʿūdī' type 'Masudi'. The search result will display the glossary entries that included the requested term.

Quick Search on the references option will look for the specified term in the reference database (bibliography).

Quick Search on the footnotes option will look for the specified term in the footnotes to the English and Arabic text of the Book of Curiosities.

Guidelines to 'Quick Search'

You can type your requested term in English or in Arabic. Even if Arabic is not installed on your computer, you can still search in Arabic by ticking the 'Tick if entering Arabic script' box and copying Arabic characters from the Book of Curiosities Arabic text.

You can search for whole words by ticking the 'Search for whole words only' box. However, in many cases searching for parts of words may be preferable. For example, if you search for 'ship', you may prefer to get results also for 'ships' and 'shipping'. The default setting is for the box 'Search for whole words only' to be ticked; remove the tick if that option is not required.

Important: To search for a compound term of two or more words, put quotation marks before and after the search. If the quotation marks are not in place, results for each separate word will be displayed.

Advanced 'Search'

Selecting the 'Search' tab allows for more refined searches, as well as a Boolean 'and' search. This option is applicable to search on 'Arabic text or English translation' and 'Glossary' databases only (to select the database, click the radio buttons on

top of the screen). As in 'Quick Search', any individual search can only apply to no more than one database.

Search on 'Arabic text or English translation'

This feature allows you to limit your search to a particular chapter, folio or map. You can choose the requested field of search from the drop-down menu on the left-hand box:

1. Label number or segment location – This field searches for the unique ID of each label or text segment. For example, each label on the Rectangular World Map is given a different serial number, from 'Rectangular World 001' to 'Rectangular World Map 395'. Each text segment on a given folio is also given a unique descriptive number, such as 'folio 35a, lines 3–6'. You can use this field to limit your search to a particular folio or map. Alternatively, if you know the serial number of the label or text segment required, it allows you to access it directly.
2. Arabic content – use this field to limit your search to the Arabic transcription of the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES.
3. English content – use this field to limit your search to the English translation of the BOOK *of* CURIOSITIES.
4. Notes content – use this field to limit your search to the editorial notes associated with map labels. For search on the footnotes, select the 'footnotes' database.
5. Chapter – use this field to limit your search to a particular chapter. When the 'Chapter' option is selected, a 'list' icon will appear at the right; clicking on this 'list' icon allows you to view the list of possible terms for this field.

Search on 'glossary'

This feature allows you to limit your search in the glossary to the main terms only, or to the glossary definitions, selected from the drop-down menu on the left-hand box:

1. Term – use this field to limit your search to the main glossary entry.
2. Arabic – use this field to limit your search to the Arabic form of the glossary entries.
3. Type – use this field to limit your search to a particular type of glossary entries, such as 'place-name' or 'personal name'. Use the 'list' icon to view the possible types.
4. Definition – use this field to limit your search to the definitions of the glossary entries.

Clicking the '+' icon will open another advanced search box, and allows you to further limit your search by combining two or more search requests.

General Search Tips:

- You can type your requested term in English or in Arabic.

- To improve the quality of your search, especially for place-names and personal names that contain non-standard characters, search the 'glossary' database and type the term in standard Latin characters; alternatively, if possible, try typing the term in Arabic.

- To search for a compound term of two or more words, put quotation marks before and after the search.

- If you are unsure whether the Arabic *al-* precedes a term or a word, do not tick the 'Search for whole words only' box.

SYMBOLS AND CONVENTIONS:

Headings and other terms written by the copyist in red ink are, in the English translation, entered in red.

The contents of medieval manuscripts are not usually numbered by pages but rather by folios (or leaves), each of which has two sides. In Western manuscripts, written in languages reading from left to right, the two sides of a folio are designated either r (recto) or v (verso). In

manuscripts written in languages reading from right to left, such as Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian, the sides of a folio are referred to in the sequence read as 'a' (أ) and 'b' (ب).

/ line breaks in text and in labels

[=] correction or expansion of a term by the editors

[ ] words or letters inserted by the editors

[غير معجمة] written in text without diacritical dots

[؟] reading and/or meaning of preceding word uncertain

(( )) gloss or correction written in text, above the word, or outside the line

{ } superfluous writing in the text; word(s) written twice

<-> or « – » a space in the line that has been left by the copyist

< > or « » words or letters damaged in text and only partially visible

<..> or «..» damage; hole, gap, lacuna – approximately one dot per letter

| | erasure or deletion in text

{ } word or words redundant

[كذا] reads as written in text

When modern identifications are given for stars, the standard nomenclature is employed, using a Greek letter or letters followed by the Latin name of the constellation given in the genitive or possessive form. Occasionally the modern nomenclature will require a Greek letter to be followed by a numeral written in superscript. Since superscripts cannot be accommodated on a web-based publication, these numerals have been written within parentheses, as, for example, φ(1)φ(2).

CHRISTIAN AND ISLAMIC DATES

The Muslim calendar is designated by H; it is a lunar one of 354 days beginning from the day of the Emigration (Ḥijrah) of the Prophet Muḥammad from Mecca to Medina, which occurred on the 16 July 622 of the Christian calendar. Consequently, Muslim dates do not correspond directly to those of the Christian era (AD) commonly used today in Europe and the U.S (and sometimes called Common Era or Civil Era). For convenience, the dates given in the translation are those of the Christian calendar, unless otherwise specified. The designation AD is used only when there is need to distinguish a date from an earlier BC date. General references to a century rather than a specific year refer to centuries of the Christian era. For example, ninth century refers to years 800–899 AD (which in the Muslim calendar would be 184–287).